

§ 727.1

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 10 U.S.C. 5031 and 5148; 32 CFR 700.206 and 700.1202.

SOURCE: 38 FR 6026, Mar. 6, 1973, unless otherwise noted.

§ 727.1 Purpose.

A legal assistance program providing needed legal advice and assistance to military personnel and their dependents has been in operation in the naval service since 1943. The program has improved the morale of personnel and reduced disciplinary problems since its inception. The purpose of this part is to provide guidelines for the continuation of the program.

§§ 727.2–727.4 [Reserved]

§ 727.5 Persons eligible for assistance.

Legal assistance shall be available to members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their dependents, and military personnel of allied nations serving in the United States, its territories or possessions. The service is intended primarily for the benefit of personnel during active service, but is to be extended to retired military personnel, their dependents, survivors of members of the Armed Forces who would be eligible were the service member alive, and in overseas areas, to civilians, other than local-hire employees, who are in the employ of, serving with, or accompanying the U.S. Armed Forces, and their dependents, when and if the workload of the office renders such service feasible.

§ 727.6 Functions of legal assistance officers.

(a) *Basic duties.* A legal assistance officer, while performing legal assistance duties, in addition to performing any other duties which may be assigned to him:

(1) Shall counsel, advise, and assist persons eligible for assistance in connection with their personal legal problems, or refer such persons to a civilian lawyer as provided in § 727.9.

(2) Shall serve as advocate and counsel for persons eligible for assistance in connection with their personal legal problems and may prepare and sign correspondence on behalf of a client, negotiate with another party or his lawyer, and prepare all types of legal documents, including pleadings.

(3) Shall, in appropriate cases and under guidelines prescribed in the Manual of the Judge Advocate General contemplating agreements or liaison with appropriate civilian bar officials, serve as advocate and counsel for, and provide full legal representation including representation in court to, persons eligible for assistance in connection with their personal legal problems.

(4) Shall, subject to the direction of the senior legal assistance officer of the command, establish contact and maintain liaison with local bar organizations, lawyer referral services, legal aid societies, and other local organizations through which the services of civilian lawyers may be made available to military personnel and their dependents.

(5) Shall supervise the personnel and operation of the legal assistance office in accordance with good legal practice and the policies and guidance provided by the Judge Advocate General.

(6) Shall advise persons with complaints of discrimination on policies and procedures under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and SECNAV Instruction 5350.5 series.

(b) *Nature of assistance.* Legal assistance officers and administrative and clerical personnel assigned to legal assistance offices perform legal assistance duties as official duties in the capacity of an officer or an employee of the United States. Persons performing legal assistance duties, however, should not mislead those with whom they may deal into believing that their views or opinions are the official views or opinions of, approved by, or binding on, the Department of the Navy or the United States.

(c) *Duty to client.* A legal assistance officer should exercise his independent